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MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

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Extract from the Rev. Joseph Cornell's Letter to the Society, containing a Journal of his second Tour into Upper Canada, &c.

TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

*Dear Fathers and Brethren,*

BY the blessing of God I have once more returned from my long tour, which I performed in the following order, viz. On the 20th of October I left home and rode to Amsterdam, where I found a small Baptist Church, who appeared thankful for the visit. I next visited Duane's-bush, and found they had been favoured with a goodly reformation. Mr. Mudge was baptized in the 85th year of his age. He had been a member of a Presbyterian church 60 years. He is firm in the doctrine of free and sovereign grace, and is going on his way rejoicing; waiting for the time to come when he shall sleep in Jesus. Elder Mudge is the son of this aged pilgrim. He informed me, that if I would stay one day he would go with me. And after preaching four sermons, we went on together to Worcester. Here the Lord reigned; and the people received us gladly. Here is a Baptist church of 70 members, assisted by a licensed preacher. It was a sweet season. We had five sermons in two days. Elder Hartwell came to our help. After parting with my ministering brethren, I tarried and preached four times, and then went to Jefferson. Here I preached three

times. The ears of the people were open to hear, and seemed much rejoiced that their old preacher had come again ; for I had once been in this hill country before. I preached the last time in the evening, on the north line of the town. It was an extreme dark night, yet the house was so crowded, that it was difficult to find room to stand. They used many arguments to persuade me to tarry longer, but my appointments were such I could not. From this I went to Socandaga river, and preached eleven sermons. On this river, two of their towns have experienced a good work of God's Spirit. Thirty three have been baptized : they wish for more instruction, and were very thankful that they were yet remembered by their Missionary friends.

My next route was up the North River, where I preached in nine neighbourhoods where they have no stated preaching. Here were two destitute churches which I visited. They manifested every mark of thankfulness, and spared no pains in attending meetings. In the north part of this route, they were almost astonished, that so mountainous a part of the country should be visited by a missionary ; and often would say, " God has favoured us beyond our expectations." I was indulged a very pleasant opportunity on Christmas day, in administering the ordinance of baptism. Many said it was the best Christmas they ever saw. Here was a considerable appearance of a revival. Since I left them, I have heard that Brother Nichols has been there a number of times, and God has blessed his labour, so that the good work is yet going on. I felt so united in affection to many, that I seemed to leave my heart with them ; for I verily think God is about to plant a church here. On my return homewards I visited the second church in Greenfield, and found some awakening among them. From thence I came to Milton, and attended the ordination of Brother Jonathan Nichols ; after which I returned home, and found that God had visited my family with afflictions, in removing my grand-daughter from her weeping parents into the world of spirits.

After spending a few days at home, I set my face again towards Canada. I commenced my missionary labours at Broadalbin. Here I found a number of the lambs of Christ, to whom I preached with much pleasure three times. To see the joy of the people while crowded together to hear the word gave a spring to my spirit, and animated me in the good work of preaching. Leaving this place, I took my journey through the back settlements of Tilsborough, Canada-Creek, &c. to Black River. The people were in general attentive, and many manifested an ardent desire after the truth ; others appeared to have obtained a considerable growth in the apostles' doctrine.

At West-Canada Creek, I heard that brother *Roots* was gone to Upper Canada. Therefore with a view to overtake him, I left preaching excepting evenings and Lord's days, for I was informed that letters had been forwarded to me and others, to come into Canada and assist in ordaining brother *Derbyshire*. I rode one hundred and fifty miles further west, than I went last year. Arriving at the place I found brother *Roots* and three other ministers. It is utterly out of my power to express the joy which flowed from every heart. For a moment, brethren, imagine yourselves three hundred miles from any ordained minister of your own denomination, and on the north side of these great waters, and this will give you some faint idea of the ground of our present joy.

The few churches of our denomination in this Province have formed an Association, with whom we now met, and assisted in accommodating some differences of opinion among them. I believe it would have given all our brethren a new spring of soul, to have seen the assembly crowded till the house would hold no more, and a number out in the weather. I attempted to preach from Eph. iv. 3. And when I came to describe the *unity of the Spirit*, our hearts melted together. Brother *Roots* preached after me, from Lam. iii. 40. When he came to set forth what was implied in *searching and turning* to the Lord, it appeared that the great strife was, who should in the most speedy and effectual manner comply with the exhortation, and who should be first in "*bringing the King back.*" O my soul! never forget this precious day of God's power, in blessing the labours of us his unworthy servants, in this remote wilderness. The whole of this meeting was attended with good order, and our encouragement was great: for pools of water have broken out in the desert, and it begins to look like a garden.

Elder *Winn*, one of the ministers present, lives at the West Lake; and is now favoured with a glorious revival of religion among his people. Elder *Turner* lives at Moyers' Creek, and his labours have been remarkably blessed the year past; and things are now very agreeable amongst them. Their additions have been considerable for so new a place. He has baptized upwards of 20 in a short time past, who appear to be disciples, well instructed in the doctrine of the kingdom of God. Elder *Crandall* has had a comfortable season the year past. The church is increasing in numbers, and we thought in graces likewise. They all complain of living at such a distance from their brethren.

Were any person who knows the force of Christian sympathy to go into Upper Canada, and see and hear what we did, he would be filled with joy to see their joy, and sorrow to see



their strong desires for assistance in preaching. Ministerial labours are continually called for ; for there were but three ministers of our order who had been regularly ordained, and one Presbyterian minister for the space of 200 miles, until we ordained two others, at the distance of 140 miles. Brother Roots parted with me for one week ; he visiting and preaching in the northern settlements, and I in the south. Our labours I trust were crowned with a blessing. We met again and preached, one in the day time and the other in the evening at Ernestown. The appearance here was favourable. The people are Presbyterians and Episcopalians.

We next visited Kingston. The attention was much greater here than we expected. O that God would do by this little city as he did by Samaria, then there would be *great joy* among the people. We next faced the 20 miles woods, in which distance we found only one hut inhabited by the natives. We warmed us by their fire, but could not make them understand any thing about religion. We got safely through the woods, and preached in the evening. We then went to see the *little Vine* planted the last year in Stephentown. When we arrived, we found the church met together, waiting for our advice and assistance in the ordination of brother Derbyshire. They immediately appointed a day for him to preach, and pass an examination ; we were much gratified in both. When the day appointed for the solemnity was come, it was truly affecting to see the multitude gathering together, whilst with a view to accommodate them, the upper floors in the house were broken up. At the same time brother *Abel Stephens* was introduced to our notice, for the particular purpose of obtaining our opinion respecting the legality of a former ordination. After duly considering all the circumstances relating to the subject, we thought it adviseable to ordain him again to put an end to all doubts. A sermon was delivered upon the occasion, and they were both publicly set apart according to apostolic practice. It would have afforded unspeakable pleasure to our benevolent society to hear their expressions of joy, arising from the consideration that they were now favoured with lawful administrators in their own neighbourhood ; for before there were none within 150 miles. In attending more than twenty solemnities of this kind, my poor unworthy soul never had a more solemn day than this. We left them offering up thanks to Heaven for the visit, and blessing you in the name of the Lord, for sending help among them who seemed ready to perish.

Taking leave of these brethren, we rode 60 miles and preached nine sermons, chiefly among the Scotch people. We have reason to hope our preaching was not in vain. Soon after, we crossed the Iroquois by the Thousand Isles. The snow was



about eight inches deep, and no track ; for it was thought to be dangerous crossing ; but a kind Providence brought us safe into the United States again. The day following we came to Perch-Creek, and preached four times with great comfort. Here I was obliged to part with brother Roots, and hard parting it was ; for our hearts were knit together like the hearts of David and Jonathan. After his departure I preached four sermons more in the same place with comfort. I next visited Watertown,\* and preached ten sermons. Here is a small Baptist Church. We had a church meeting, two joined, and we trust Christ was known in the breaking of bread in the communion. The church voted their thanks to your benevolent Society.

Leaving Watertown I went to Sandy-Creek, and found my Master was there before me, and had already begun to work. The little church we gathered last year, appears to be in harmony ; and some have been added by letters. Since I first arrived there, which was the 26th of March, twelve have been baptized. The last evening I heard from there, they had a concert of prayer ; and the young converts fell on their knees before their Maker, and cried for mercy for poor sinners ! They continued their fervent supplications for a very considerable length of time. O Lord hear their prayers for Christ's sake.

From this I went to visit five other towns ; and found at Leyden,† there had been a good reformation. Nine had been baptized in one day. At Turen, eighteen were examined, and the time appointed for them to be baptized. Elder Stephen Parsons had lately removed into this town : Therefore as they were now favoured with his gifts, I tarried to preach two sermons only, as I thought it my duty more especially to visit the destitute. Many here were inquiring in earnest to know what they shall do to be saved. I proceeded from this to Steuben. Here we had a communion season. The church were happy in love, and are favoured with the assistance of a young preacher. From hence I went to Western, and found God had been carrying on his work ever since I was there last year. Here I tarried six days and preached ten times. I attended their church meeting, and baptized three as the gleanings of the vintage, after which we had a most solemn communion season. Their prayers and exhortations were frequent, in which they expressed themselves very understandingly. It was like a sweet

\* When I was here last year, I preached to a professed Deist. God was pleased to awaken him and his wife ; she told her exercises to the church, to their abundant joy. They have hope of him also. Lord make me thankful.

† We are not certain that this is the proper name.

Editors.

air to breathe in. Their sincere thanks were expressed to the Society. They had thirty-five added the last year. They expressed a great desire to see you, to tell you of their joys on account of your sending some to help them in the gospel. After leaving this people, I returned homeward. Nothing very special occurred; yet I may say, however, that the people wherever I travelled were very thankful for the visit. They manifested their good wishes, and frequently contributed something towards our expenses. They request an interest in your prayers for their prosperity, in the things which pertain to the kingdom of God.

When I passed through the Black River country last year, there was no church of any denomination, and now there are five Baptist churches and three Presbyterian. The former have two ordained ministers, and the latter one. Each denomination manifests great Christian friendship. Bigotry is very little known here. Although they are separate in their communions, yet their doors were equally open for preaching. *The Lord has done great things for them, whereof we are glad.*

In the course of my journey I have been favoured with the company of a number of ministering brethren, which have helped me much by their labours in the gospel of Christ. Brother Roots in an especial manner ought to be noticed. He travelled in my route more than five hundred miles. His labours have been eminently blessed, for which I desire to be thankful.

I think I may venture to say, I have had as much of the divine presence as I ever had in a journey before. The thought of meeting you, dear brethren, at the throne of grace, when I have attempted to pray or preach in this desert land, has often extorted the tears of joy from my eyes. O that your labours in having sent the first Missionaries into these northern regions, may be blessed.

I have lately seen a letter, giving an account of a missionary's returning to England from the Cape of Good-Hope, accompanied by three Hottentots who had been converted to the faith of Jesus; and further stating, that he had gathered a church there of 30 members. On reading this account my heart exclaimed, My body is not too good to be worn out in so glorious a cause, might I only have the company of my sweet Saviour, who left heaven and came down to earth to die for us poor sinners.

Since I have been on my mission I have rode 1717 miles. I have been 150 miles further west than I went the last year. I have attempted to preach one hundred and sixty-one sermons. And I think I can say I have found the saying of the prophet

true, *They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.* O Lord make me thankful that I have seen so much of the work of thy Spirit on the hearts of poor sinners. *Not unto us, not unto us, O Lord, but unto thy name be all the glory in the church throughout all ages, Amen.*

JOSEPH CORNELL.

Galway, State of New-York,  
May 10, 1804.

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Extract from the Minutes of the Thurlow Baptist Association in Upper Canada, held at Haldermand, on the 16th and 17th Feb. 1804.

*"Voted, to request the Moderator and Clerk to compose a letter to the Massachusetts Baptist Missionary Society, stating to them our situation, and requesting their further assistance." The following letter was accordingly drawn up and committed to Elder Cornell to send on to the Society.*

TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, to meet in Boston the last Wednesday in May next.

*Dear Fathers and Brethren,*

THE Thurlow Baptist Association send their unfeigned thanks to the Society, for sending their missionary, elder *Joseph Cornell*, whose coming, with elder *Peter P. Roots*, has been to our peculiar advantage; their coming was like Paul and Barnabas visiting the churches. For their labours amongst us, the chief we can do, is to render our united thanks to the Father of mercies, and God of all grace, that he has put it into the hearts of our fathers and brethren, in the United States, to send faithful brethren to Upper Canada, to help us by assisting "to set in order the things that are wanting." And when we saw your Missionary Magazine, and heard of the prosperity of Zion, of the success of Emanuel over the powers of darkness, our souls were filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Two years since, our three churches, in this quarter, agreed to form into an association for our mutual improvement, and assistance in promoting the cause of truth: but last year some things took place, which interrupted, and we were afraid would continue to interrupt, if not destroy, the union and sweet friendship, which we had before felt: but according to our prayers, and by the blessing of God attending the labours of our brethren, who came from the States to visit us, our harmony in gospel bonds is all restored, and much increased. We have receiv-



ed one church this year, and our interview has been evidently crowned with the Divine Presence, and it has been a most edifying, comforting, and refreshing season to our souls.

As we are yet in our infant state, and our country is very extensive and very destitute ; as we have only three regularly ordained ministers of our order, and but one Presbyterian in all this country, we earnestly request further help from your benevolent Society. We see plainly that your benevolence leads you to part with your earthly substance in order to spread the gospel in the wilderness. May the Lord of the harvest reward you a thousand fold, and may the blessing of many ready to perish come upon you. And we hope and pray, that the Lord may prepare us for, and send us ~~skated~~ labourers into this part of his harvest. When father Cornell told us of your continual prayers for the wilderness to break forth into pools of living water, our souls said, *Amen, Lord, even so let it be.*

Signed in behalf of the Association,

JOSEPH CORNELL, *Moderator.*  
PETER P. ROOTS, *Clerk.*

P. S. Our next Association is to be holden at Thurlow, the second Friday in Feb. 1805, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Extract of a letter from a Christian Brother, dated Lowville, April 7th, 1804, addressed to the Missionary Society.

*Dear Fathers and Brethren,*

**T**HIS is to inform you, though in a very brief manner, of some peculiar blessings which have attended the labours of your Missionary, Elder Joseph Cornell, in the towns of Rutland and Champion, in the Black River country.

I shall give you a short statement of his first visit. About the 19th of January, 1803, he came to Champion, having been previously informed, that there was a council in the Open Communion Baptist Society to attend, for the purpose of giving *fellowship* to a number as a church, and also to ordain Brother Timothy Pool. But it so fell out, that a part of the council did not attend ; and after a short conference with the brethren, it was concluded to proceed so far as to examine their standing as a church ; and to omit the ordination until more help could be obtained.

But in the mean time the old gentleman, with his grave looks, and with a most feeling sense of our weakness in a business so important, began (when called upon) to express himself in the following manner. "I have attended business in a large number of churches, but have never seen such a sight as this." This expression, with a lengthy explanation of his meaning, together with the tender feelings he expressed for this infant, yet extensive settlement, could not fail of interesting our attention; although some things which he said at first were received rather with umbrage than other ways: but by the blessing of our kind Lord, who put the rod into his hand to give us a few gentle strokes like the kind Father; under the government of a holy God it had its use. This counsel and reproof, together with a number of sermons on the doctrine of our Saviour, proved a mean of conviction on our minds; so that by the help of Elders *Parsons* and *Butler*, we have been received into the fellowship of the Otsego Association. On his return to us this winter we could meet him in fellowship, with hearts of thankfulness for his labours of love. I return my hearty thanks to the Baptist Missionary Society in Massachusetts, for their labours of love, in sending their missionaries into these western territories, and pray for your prosperity in the great cause of truth.

Receive this information from your unknown, unworthy brother in tribulation,

JOSEPH MALBY.

Extract of a Letter from a respectable Pædo-Baptist Minister in Connecticut, to an aged Minister in Boston.

LEBANON, C. June 2, 1804.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

**T**HE bearer is my son, whom I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance, and hope he may have opportunity to cultivate an acquaintance with the serious youth and other dear people of your congregation, who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

The evening in your Vestry, Sir, before I left town, I shall I trust long remember. It pleased God to give me unusual freedom in discoursing to the dear people there assembled, and I humbly trust through divine mercy it was a refreshing season to numbers of them. I long to see them and cultivate farther acquaintance with them. With great reluctance I left the place. And I hope it may please a gracious providence to

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give me opportunity again to visit you, before what little acquaintance we have formed be forgotten.

I rejoice in the success with which it has pleased God of late and in former times, to bless your labours. May you be succeeded more and more, and your last days be your best days. If any event in our world can lead an aged friend of Zion and faithful servant in the vineyard to adopt the words of Simeon and say, "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation," it must surely be a copious out-pouring of the Spirit. O how important that every one in such a season should hold his vessel in readiness and receive some of the precious drops! How lamentable and how alarming to be passed by at such a time. The Lord of glory, the heir of all things, who hath all the riches of the universe at his disposal, is passing among you, and dispensing favours, in comparison with which gold, silver, precious stones, crowns and sceptres, are despicable. Who that has a spark of true wisdom will neglect to put in for a share? Who that has a spark of gratitude will neglect to render him praise? He will be praised by the holy myriads surrounding his throne, in sublimest strains, through endless ages. And glory will redound to his great name from hell beneath.

I feel as though, were I permitted, I could most gladly address the great and attentive assembly who throng your house in the name of the Lord, on things of infinite, of eternal consequence to every soul. I rejoice that they are thus addressed by those by whom the Lord is pleased to send. And whenever any good is effected, it is the Lord himself who must do it. Means and instruments in themselves are nothing. Thanks to his condescending grace that he is pleased to make use of them. My love to Mr.— and others, if such there may be, who may inquire after the transient stranger who was blessed with an opportunity in addressing them. The kind regards they manifested towards me I trust I shall ever remember. The good Lord be with them and bless them with much of his gracious presence. May all who profess his holy name, walk worthy of Him who hath called them to his kingdom and glory. May the dear youth in the sweet bloom of life consecrate themselves to the service of the King of glory. May they discover the glorious holy beauty of the character of Jesus of Nazareth, embrace the immortal Bridegroom as the chief among ten thousand and altogether lovely, and become indissolubly united with him, and with all his dear friends. With respect,

I am, &c.

Z. ELY.

DR. STILLMAN.



Extract from a Letter written by an aged Minister  
of the Gospel, to his Son in Providence, Rhode-  
Island.

BY the same hand that I received a line from you, I have now an opportunity to write ; but expect when I have done cannot read it myself ; but as you are so near College, it may be some one there may read it, for it is about the third attempt of the kind for four years.\* Yet blessed be God for that ease of body, and composure of mind that I enjoy ; and above all, that I am so near to port, and so good a pilot on board, with whom I can safely trust vessel and cargo, were they of more value. And although I do not doubt being safely moored in the harbour, yet I tremble when I think of facing my Owner, and look over my misconduct. I feel conscious of so much misuse of both vessel and cargo, that all hope is in the goodness of my Owner.

Your funeral sermon announcing my good old brother —'s being crowned, I was glad to see, and expect ere long to see him wear it.

Beside your own dear family, I have so many relations and friends in your parts of the country, that the remainder of this letter must, all of it, be filled with affection, love, and good wishes to and for them. After this, you will hardly wish or expect another scribble from your father, till death.

Frankfort, Kentucky,  
July 28, 1803.

J. G.

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Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Peter P. Roots,  
to the Secretary of the Society ; dated Eastport,  
July 21, 1804.

Dear Brother,

I HAVE thoughts of giving you a short sketch of my travels of late ; and of some occurrences, which have fallen under my notice. The chief of my time since the first of Nov. 1803, has been employed in itinerating to preach the gospel. And though I have too little sense of divine things ; yet I hope and believe, that I have, in some measure, realized the spiritual

\* The writer had been some time affected with the palsy.

presence of Christ with me in this good work, according to his gracious promise, "Lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

I believe that itinerant preaching is calculated to advance the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, in general; but in new settlements there is a special call for it. We read, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

In November, December, and the forepart of January, 1804, I made several short excursions, in which I was out two or three weeks at a time, from my family; and I found it refreshing to my mind.

Having now fully determined to give up myself to the work of preaching the gospel from place to place, in the wilderness; and having consulted my friends, who thought it my duty, I set off, Jan. 24th, for the Province of Upper Canada, preaching repeatedly, as I passed through the Black River country. Feb. 3d, I crossed the river St. Lawrence, to Kingston, in Canada; and continued to ride and preach in that Province, (a few days only excepted) once, twice, or thrice a day until the 7th of March.

At the Thurlow Baptist Association, in Canada, perhaps nearly one hundred miles west of Kingston, I met with elder Joseph Cornell, a Missionary from the *Massachusetts Baptist Missionary Society*; and I trust we could both say, As "iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

This infant Association were involved in some difficulties; but happily they all soon subsided, and it was a time of love, joy, and peace.

After this, father Cornell and I were frequently together. We often found the need of each other's help; and I can truly say, the longer I was with him, the more I loved him. Verily our hearts burned within us whilst attending to the calls of Christ's sheep and lambs, enveloped around with thick darkness, in that foreign land. Though we travelled hundreds of miles north and east of Lake Ontario, we did not find one Congregational minister, and but one Presbyterian, Mr. Robert McDowall. He appears to be a pious, and useful man; and is engaged to do all he can to spread the knowledge of the truth; and to dispel the clouds of error, and vice, which do greatly prevail in that desert land.

Mr. McDowall recommended me to a number of Scotch Presbyterians among whom I preached, and with whom I was much delighted. I generally found all denominations disposed to get together to hear preaching; and for the most part they were very attentive. However, my feelings were a little tried at Kingston. A friend of mine had sent word to a man in that place, that I would preach there, the 23d of February at 1 o'clock, P. M. I came to the man's house near

the time appointed for meeting ; but he had done nothing about it, and appeared to care nothing about it. I then went to a tavern and put up, where I again met with Elder Cornell, who had called there just before I came to town. I told him how it was ; and we had some thoughts of going on that afternoon ; but on the whole, we concluded to stay and see if we could not get the people together in the evening. At length, I found a shoemaker, who consented to have a meeting at his house ; but said he did not think a dozen would attend. He gave some notice of the meeting, but I feared the people would not be generally notified ; therefore, I went out through the streets, into the stores, and among the soldiers, giving notice wherever I went, that a sermon was to be preached at 6 o'clock at Mr.— And as we were walking to the place appointed, we gave notice to a number on our way ; and a large room was well filled with people in good season : the audience were attentive and solemn. After sermon we went to our lodgings, and the next morning paid our reckoning, and went on our way rejoicing.

We visited Leeds, Landsdown, Bastard, Elizabethtown, and some other places east of Kingston, preaching daily. We assisted in the ordination of two men, both members of the church constituted the winter before at Bastard, (sometimes called Stephentown.) There are now five Baptist ministers in the province of Upper Canada ; but these two elders whom we ordained, being between one and two hundred miles from the other three, have not, as yet, any personal acquaintance with them.

Books are very scarce in Canada. I hope the society will be able to send them some. Schooling is but little attended to. A great part of their children are growing up in ignorance, both of letters and religion. However, God has of late, in great mercy, poured out his Spirit in several places, and we hope that knowledge and religion may both revive in that country. But farewell to Canada for the present. I hope however to see it again next winter, if the Lord will.

March 7th, with Elder Stephens for our pilot, we broke a path through the snow, and came about eleven miles on the ice, before we got to land in the United States again. In one place the ice was so thin, that the axe went through at one blow ; and much care was needful to get along safely.

March 10th, I parted with Elders Cornell and Stephens, and preached from place to place, through the Black River country, to Whitestown, and thence to Hamilton, and arrived at my house March 23d, and found my family all in good health ; though somewhat anxious about me, as I had been gone three weeks longer than I expected to be, when I left



home. The cold and tedious winter past has been a short, sweet and comfortable season to my mind. I have had a rich reward in (not for) devoting myself to the work of an evangelist. I had the satisfaction to learn, that at Sandy Creek, and Turin, north of Whites town, there is great attention to religion; and many in those places have lately been baptized on their own profession of faith.

April 25th, I left home with the approbation of the church with which I am connected, meaning to visit Vermont, Massachusetts, and the District of Maine; partly to see some friends; but principally with a view to preach the gospel in different places; especially in the most destitute part of the District of Maine. In Vermont I was informed that the Lord had lately revived his work, in Hebron, Ruport, Wallingford and Clarendon; in which places many have lately made a public profession of their faith in a buried and risen Saviour. The week I spent at Boston, I trust, I shall never forget, for my heart was made glad, very glad, in beholding the rich displays of divine grace in that capital.

May 30th. At Boston I received an appointment from the Society, with directions to visit the District of Maine, Upper Coos, and the destitute parts of Vermont, and so on to the westward. Accordingly I have proceeded to Eastport, at Passamaquaddy, where I am at present.

On my way, I attended the New-Hampshire Association at Buxton; and was pleased to find them so sound in the faith, and so well united in love. I have preached (after my manner) more times, than there have been days, since the first of June. I have always been at destitute places on the sabbath, until I came here, and as much as possible at other times; but when I could not get to destitute places to have a meeting, I have not refused to preach, wherever the people wished to hear. I have visited a number of families, and attended several conferences. In many places, I fear, that religion is at a low ebb; and that family worship, if not public worship, church discipline, and the religious education of children is too much neglected: yet I rejoice, that in some places, the Lord hath revived his work of late. Especially at Ballstown, Davistown, and Green, which are new plantations not yet incorporated. After visiting these places I went to Northport, at which place and several other places in its vicinity, I trust there is a good work going on: of which I suppose you will hear particularly by Brother Case, whom I saw at Northport. After crossing the Penobscot river, I saw four Congregational ministers, not far apart, who appear to be men of God. One of them, (with whom I had an agreeable acquaintance at college) has several young men studying with him, who I hope may be blessings to Zion.

After leaving these ministers, I found a very destitute country. Mr. Steel of Machias is the only minister, I found, after leaving Bluehill, till I came to Elder Murphy's, at Moose Island, which, I suppose, is nearly one hundred and fifty miles.

The assemblies have usually been solemn, and attentive ; and I hope, that some good fruit, through the blessing of God, may be produced from the seed sown. The people in a number of places have manifested their gratitude to the society, and requested further help. Particularly a small church at Woolwich, consisting of six males and seven females, and others who met with them, expressed their gratitude, by contributing for the society only at an afternoon lecture, more than three dollars. And they request more help from the society.

Last Saturday, I attended the church conference on Moose Island ; and Lord's day, by Brother Murphy's request, I preached, and baptized four persons, two men and two women, in the presence of a very numerous and solemn assembly. The men, I hope, are some of the happy fruits of the labours of two missionaries, of different denominations. I mention this, as a matter of encouragement, both to Missionary Societies, and to missionaries.

There are some hopeful appearances here : and it is with reluctance, I think of leaving this country at present. There are many destitute places, which I cannot visit for want of time. May the Lord of the harvest send forth labourers into this part of his harvest.

I have made appointments where to preach daily for more than one hundred and fifty miles on my way from Passamaquaddy toward the Coos-country ; and next week if the Lord will, I expect to be returning and attending to some of these appointments.

May God bless the Missionary Societies ; and all those missionaries, who are the true ministers of Jesus Christ. And may the watchmen, both pastors and evangelists, all awake, and fight the good fight of faith.

I cannot doubt, but those, who are sent forth to preach in the wilderness, are daily helped by the prayers of all the true friends to Zion ; which is a comforting consideration, to one, who wishes to be a faithful servant of Jesus Christ, and of all men for Jesus' sake.

PETER PHILANTHROPOS ROOTS.

EASTPORT, JULY 21, 1804.

## LETTER

*From the Committee of Missions of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to the Massachusetts Baptist Missionary Society.*

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GENTLEMEN,

THE General Assembly the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, at their session in May, A. D. 1802, appointed "a standing committee of missions," a part of whose duty was declared to be, "to correspond with missionaries, if necessary, and with all other persons on missionary business.

The committee, after attentively considering this part of their trust, have concluded that it will probably both aid and gratify the Assembly, to be informed of the measures and success of others engaged in missionary undertakings. They are also disposed to believe that a mutual communication of the plans, purposes and prospects, of the various missionary associations in this country, with the effects of their exertions already produced, may greatly encourage and assist each other, in their common efforts to propagate the precious gospel of Christ, among those who have hitherto been destitute of its blessings.

The committee, therefore, will take the liberty of communicating to you a short statement of the missionary business under the superintendence of the Assembly; and will then request of you, in return, answers to certain questions which they will specify, from which they hope to be both instructed and animated in their arduous work.

From the time that the Presbyterian church was organized in this country, which was at the commencement of the last century, the practice has existed among us, of sending ministers of the gospel to preach to those who had not its institutions regularly established among them. This, however, for a number of years, was done only, or principally, to such people as requested the aid which they received from presbyteries and synods. The number of our ministers was then small, themselves and their flocks were poor, the country was thinly inhabited, and frequently the places calling for ministerial labour were considerably remote. Gradually, however, all these circumstances were meliorated; and the duty of sending the gospel, without solicitation, to the regions destitute of it, was more sensibly felt, and more easily executed. Our church indeed has always considered missionary labours as an object of importance; which they have accordingly pursued, at some times with a greater, and at others with a less degree of zeal. The Rev. David Brainard, the Rev. John Brainard, the Rev. Charles Beatty, and the Rev. George Duffield, all members of



the synod of New-York, went on missions to the Indians, between the years 1740 and 1765. Accounts of all these missions, except that of the Rev. John Brainard, have been published. Salaries were given to the two first mentioned, by the society in Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge. During the period already specified, and for several years succeeding it, missions were also sent to the Europeans, and their descendants, who were settled in the Western parts of the States of Virginia and N. Carolina.

But it was not till the year 1789, when the supreme judicature of the Presbyterian church was made a delegated body, and denominated a General Assembly, that any measures were taken to establish a regular and permanent fund for the support of missions. Before this their support was gratuitous, and those who undertook them commonly sustained a principal part of the expense. But the Assembly, at their very first sessions, formed a plan for obtaining a permanent fund, and directed that voluntary contributions to it should be sought for and received, in all the churches under their care. Considerable sums of money were accordingly collected in this manner, and carefully and economically applied, to enlarge the sphere of missionary usefulness. In the years 1795 and 1796 the sum of Dolls. 1226 50 was expended for this purpose.

In the year 1799 the Assembly obtained from the legislature of the State of Pennsylvania a charter of incorporation, whereby certain individuals of their communion were empowered to hold property, both real and personal, for charitable and pious purposes, and subject to the order of the Assembly. In consequence of this event very considerable donations have been made, and the fund for supporting missionaries is now respectable, and has the prospect of a still further increase.

For three years past seven or eight missionaries have been annually sent out, besides a stated missionary, who resides on the frontiers of the country to direct the labours of others, and to spend six months of the year himself in travelling and preaching. The success of these missionaries, among the white inhabitants who have received their labours, has been very considerable. They have already been instrumental in establishing churches through a large extent of country, and their preaching, under the divine blessing, has manifested the power of evangelical truth in the hopeful conversion of many souls. In a word, they are annually forming into regular congregations the people who emigrate from the interior of our county to the wilderness that adjoins it, and planting and cherishing among them the seeds of genuine piety.

There are four descriptions of people to whom the Assembly, at present, are endeavouring to send missions. 1. To those who are settled on our frontier; with whom, as just stated, they

have had much success. 2. To certain places in the more settled parts, where the gospel has not been regularly established. Here, too, there has been some success, and the prospect of more is promising, if it be not clouded by the want of suitable missionaries. 3. To the black people, or negroes, of the United States. These, in the southern part of the Union, are mostly slaves, extremely ignorant, and, from the rank they hold in society, difficult of instruction. The Assembly, however, have, for two years past, employed a missionary of their own race and colour to travel and labour among them. He is a man of education, as well as of prudence and piety, and has been well received. 4. To the Indians, or Aborigines of our country. The Assembly have not been able, till the present year, to obtain a suitable missionary to be sent among these: at their last meeting, however, their ardent wishes were gratified; and one was engaged whom they esteem in all respects well qualified for the undertaking, and he is now commissioned to establish a school for the instruction of the youth of the Cherokee Indians, and to introduce among them, as speedily as may be practicable, the knowledge of evangelical truth.

Seasons of special prayer for the success of the gospel have been recommended by the Assembly, and observed by many of their congregations; and we think there is reason to believe that a prayer hearing God hath graciously regarded, and answered the petitions of his people.

The synods of Virginia, of Pittsburgh, of Kentucky, and of the Carolinas, are all engaged in missionary enterprises. These synods are connected with, and under the care of, the Assembly. But, from local circumstances, it has been judged expedient that they should manage the missionary business separately from the Assembly, and some of them have manifested a most commendable zeal in the cause. From the western commission of the Synod of Virginia nine missionaries were sent forth during the last year. Three of these have gone to the Indians. They have also sent a young man, of pious character, among the heathen, to instruct them in agriculture, and to make instruments of husbandry for their use. The commission of Synod are likewise instructing a native Indian youth, who has lately become pious, with a view to his being an interpreter, and in due time a preacher of the gospel, among his people.

The civil government of our country has never presented any obstacle to the missionary efforts of the General Assembly, and, in sending a mission to the Indians, it has afforded some assistance. Some of the officers of government have decidedly countenanced and encouraged the undertaking.

The great difficulty with us is, to obtain men well qualified for the office of missionaries, especially to the Indian tribes. This has much circumscribed the efforts that might, and that proba-

bly would, otherwise have been made. We hope, at present, that there is reason to expect that this hindrance will be diminished, if not wholly removed.

From the statement now finished you will perceive, that the Great Head of the Church has put it into the hearts of the ministers and people of our denomination to exert themselves with considerable diligence and earnestness, to extend the favour of their Redeemer's name, among the ignorant, the destitute, and the vicious; that their success has already been encouraging, and that their future prospects are highly animating.

Allow us now to propose to you a few questions, to which we would solicit your answers, as soon as you may find leisure to make, and opportunity to transmit them. The questions are the following—How long has your society existed? What were the circumstances and motives that led to its institution? What obstacles or difficulties have you had to surmount? What are your funds? What is the number of your missionaries? Are they all men of education, or not? What instructions do you give to your missionaries? What are the places to which you have already sent missions, and what other places do you contemplate for them? What has been your success hitherto? What are your hopes and prospects for the future? What advice can you give to us? By answers to these inquiries, and by any other useful remarks that you may think proper to make, you will greatly oblige us.

We have nothing further to add, but our entreaties and our hopes that your prayers may be united with ours, and most fervently offered at the throne of grace, that God may give the heathen to his Son for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession: and that he may speedily become king of nations as he is king of saints.

“By order and on behalf of the Standing Committee of missions.”

ASHBEL GREEN, *Chairman.*

Philadelphia, April 21st, 1804.

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**Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Clark Kendrick,  
to the Secretary of the Society; dated**

POULTNEY, V. October 21, 1803.

*Rev. and dear Sir,*

**Y**OU will pardon the boldness of a stranger, (in writing) animated with the endeavours of our brethren in your Commonwealth, and others around you, to spread the gospel in the benighted parts of our land. The evangelic Isaiah, personating the everlasting Father in his address to the Son, saith, “It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel.



I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the ends of the earth." I was greatly rejoiced upon brother Haynes' return from Boston to hear that you had formed a society, and are putting out magazines. One of the first No. I received from him. I read it with avidity; it was what I had been wanting to see for some time. I have considered that our denomination has been deficient in disseminating such knowledge. My endeavours must be small, but notwithstanding I live at a great distance from you, I will do my utmost to encourage the work. A great many of the magazines will find a place in these parts. Our brethren in this quarter, who have knowledge of the work, are highly pleased with it, and I believe universal encouragement will be given.

Dear brother, if the following short narrative of the progress of the Baptist church in this town, should be thought worthy of noticing in the magazine, you may make use of it as you think proper.

A number of years past a small Baptist church was erected in this town, but it had no pastor. The Congregational church was somewhat numerous, and the town in general was of that sentiment, and had a settled minister. This small Baptist church, contrary to the general custom of our order, adopted what some call open communion, and not only met and worshipped with the other church, but communed with them. This circumstance prevented the growth of the Baptists for many years; for I have since found some, who at that time came out in religion, and joined the other church, who have lately come off, would have joined the Baptists then, only the union or communion of the Baptists with the other order, implied no difference. In this way the Baptist church remained in a state of obscurity till within a short time. But about three years ago, a reformation began to appear in Middletown, adjoining this, under the administration of elder Haynes; which became very glorious. Indeed the east part of our town caught the flame, which soon spread into various parts of the town. At this time, and for several years before, there was no minister of any order in the town. Brother Haynes was now called upon to baptize frequently in this place, and those baptized joined his church. Two years ago, last spring, the small Baptist church having thought it inconsistent to continue their communion with an unbaptized church, became a branch of the Baptist church in Middletown; being 15 in number when they joined. About that time I providentially visited this town and preached a number of times in the course of a week, and was earnestly solicited by a great majority of the people, to preach with them a year, and finally agreed to comply with the request. During which time,

Brother Haynes came from time to time and baptized and administered the Lord's Supper, which abundantly conduced to their growth. A year ago last spring, this branch was again set off as an independent church, for the purpose of uniting with the society to give me a call to settle. Thirty-two were set off. Some in the east part still continued with Middletown church. A council was called, and I was ordained. The solemnities of the day were great. It was observed that the like is seldom known on like occasions. It was with trembling I received the solemn function, and entered on the great work. May the God of Israel make me faithful until I am dismissed by death. It is about a year and a half since I was ordained. I have not the church records by me, but since I was ordained I think we have had about fifty join us, and rising of forty were received by baptism. I have baptized twenty the past summer and present fall; some others now stand upon the banks of pleasant Jordan. Between fifteen and twenty within a year or two past, have come from the Congregational church, embraced the ordinance of baptism, and joined with us. May the Lord open the eyes of all to see that there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and his name one throughout the world. Since the reformation began in Middletown, about sixty persons, residents of this town, have been baptized; besides some who have joined the Congregational church. The work has been gradual, and continues in some degree to this time. In days past the poisonous flood of infidelity has rolled in upon this town, and appeared to sweep many along in its deadly current. Some of our youth have been fascinated with such like systems, which are at an infinite remove from holiness. But infidelity with us is on the decline. Some of that sentiment have been converted to the belief of a Saviour; others convicted of the truth of the Bible; and some are dead and gone. May the Lord bring them all, here and elsewhere, to the knowledge and acknowledgment of the truth. There has been of late a reformation in Bennington, and is now in the town of Dorset, and a universal reformation in the town of Benson; and we hear of revivals to the northward.

A little west of us in Hartford, in elder Brown's parish, and near there, I understand about a hundred persons have been baptized in the course of a few months past. I understand one hundred have also lately been added by baptism to elder Bates's church of Queensbury.

Dear Sir, may the Lord prosper the endeavours of you and your brethren around you, in the glorious cause you have espoused, in attempting to spread evangelic truth. May your society daily increase, and your funds enable you to send many faithful brethren, who shall carry the glories of Jesus far into the benighted parts of our land. Elders Warren and

Covel have gone on a mission ; when they return you will undoubtedly hear from them. And now blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name forever, and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

CLARK KENDRICK.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Isaac Case, to the Secretary of the Society, dated at Islesborough, June 29, 1804.

*My very dear Brother,*

I HAVE now set down to let you know how it hath been with me, where I am, and what I have seen and heard. I left home the seventh day of June for the eastward, but soon found I had caught a bad cold, which put me into somewhat of a stupid frame, both in body and mind. But I kept on in my delightful work, in sounding a Saviour's name ; preaching almost every day, once, twice, and one day three sermons. Through the blessing of God the hoarseness I have experienced for some days past is greatly removed, and my voice is nearly restored to its usual tone. I have been at Fox-Island, where I baptized three persons and administered the Lord's Supper. After a lecture preached by brother Pillsbury, we went to the shore followed by about fifty, chiefly of them that love our Lord Jesus Christ. Here we kneeled down and prayed, then took our leave of our friends, which was solemn and delightful. We then entered on board our boat and crossed the bay to Long-Island. The wind was fair and the weather pleasant. We were ten in number, some of whom had lately been brought from darkness to light, and some were cast down with the burden of sin. As we sweetly glided along through the liquid element, we employed our time in singing hymns, and in reading your sermon entitled "*The eternal purpose of God the foundation of effectual calling.*"

I am now come to Islesborough (or Long-Island). Here the work hath been very powerful. It is thought that sixty or seventy have been new born, within two months. It is difficult for me to describe the particulars to you ; but in several instances it resembled the extraordinary work in Kentucky. Some have been struck down motionless, as if dead. And for some time life was to be perceived in them only as they appeared to breathe ; and others would move their lips as if addressing their Maker. When they came out of those frames, they



would appear very rational ; and would declare what great things the Lord had done for their souls. One stout-hearted sailor standing in the manger, as they were met in a barn, was struck down in the manner above described ; and after laying for about an hour was brought out praising God ! He told the people that he was born in a manger where his Saviour was. He then showed a great concern for the salvation of others, especially for his father, and after talking to him and others around him, he told them that he would pray with them. They fell upon their knees while he proceeded. Pen cannot describe, imagination can only conceive how solemn the scene appeared, to see a child agonizing in prayer for his parent whom he viewed to be in an unconverted state. This work hath spread into all parts of the town. Those who are not partakers in it are so far convinced that it is a good work, that they have but little to say against it. There are others under deep concern about their eternal salvation.

As to the instruments that God hath made use of in this reformation, some date their first awakening from hearing Mr. Sewall preach the last fall ; and others were awakened under my feeble labours when here last April. But the work hath been mainly carried on under the preaching of brother Pillsbury, and the prayers, exhortations, singing and private conversation of three pious young men, who have been studying with Mr. Merrill, with a view to the ministry. One of these young men is a member of a Baptist church. I have heard the experiences of about thirty of the young converts ; they in general give good satisfaction. I have baptized eleven persons since I came to this island. One of them was brother Pillsbury, who by searching his Bible was convinced, that he never was baptized before.

There was a meeting-house raised in this town yesterday, which was the 28th of June. After the people were ready for raising, we joined in solemn prayer ; then they proceeded in their work. As soon as they had raised the building, they prepared seats in the frame, and brother Merrill of Sedgwick preached a sermon, from Luke ii. 34. *Behold this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel.* The place was truly solemn. Two young men were struck down to the floor under deep distress of soul. Thus God hath begun to magnify his power in this newly erected building.

July 3d. Before sun rise. I am set down to give you some further information of matters here. One of the young men that was struck down at the lecture after raising the meeting-house, received comfort the same night after he returned home. One woman was brought out on Friday, which was the next day ; and her husband on Saturday, whilst labouring in his field, found Jesus. He soon returned to his house to carry

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the news to his wife. On Saturday last I baptized five ; Lord's-day, 9 more were baptized before a multitude of spectators that gathered from various parts. We then joined together at the communion table of our dear Lord.

This good work is spreading in Northport. Here I met with brother Roots and heard him preach a lecture yesterday ; after which I administered baptism to five persons. This day I have appointed to preach in Castine, where I expect to baptize one or more. I have baptized 33 since I left home, and have administered the Lord's supper twice. O that I were humble and truly thankful to that wonder-working God, that is doing great things in these regions of the east. I send these lines by Capt. William Pendleton, who I trust is a sharer in this gracious work. Having written up all my paper, I only have room to subscribe myself your unworthy, though I hope sincere brother in our common Lord,

I. CASE.

**Letter from the Rev. James Murphy, to the Massachusetts Baptist Missionary Society.**

[*Continued from p. 59.*]

**T**HE 13th of January, 1804, I rode to the hardwood ridge, about half way between Machias and Dennysville. Here are two families only. I preached to them, and they appeared to be thankful. The 13th I reached (through much fatigue both to myself and horse in wallowing through snow and mud sloughs) a little before sun set at Dennysville, where I preached with freedom, and found that during my absence the Lord had been working amongst the people. I found that Mr. Sewall's ministry had been blessed to the awakening of several. The 14th I rode, accompanied by a number of hungry souls, to Penemaquan, where I preached in the evening, and a powerful season it was. Lord's-day 15. Some of the people came to the distance of 10 miles, and others 5 and 6 miles, wading through snow. I preached two sermons. A powerful season it was ; the people melted under the word, like wax before the sun. Truly there is a work of God in that place. The 16th returned home and found my family in a comfortable state of health through the tender mercy of God.

Wednesday, Feb. 8th. 1804. I left home, took passage in a vessel and landed at Beaver harbour, and preached to a considerable number of fishermen and others out of vessels lying in the harbour. There are but 3 families living in the harbour,

they were all present, they gave great attention and expressed thankfulness for the opportunity of hearing the word. I had appointed to preach twice the next day; but was disappointed by a very violent snow-storm. The 10th, I set out on foot, no horse being to be obtained, and waded through the snow, oftentimes up nearly to my hips. Poorly indeed was I able, and oftentimes I feared I should not be able to accomplish my tour: and what added more to my distress, was to find a set of people so sadly blinded by tradition, that they did not wish to hear the word, looking upon free-grace preachers as so many servants of the devil. These people are called Quakers, but, I fear they have little more than the name. I had much conversation with one of their leaders; I cannot say I think him friendly to the truth, as it is in Jesus.

The 11th. Having prayed with and for Mr. Davidson's family, and delivered them much exhortation, the kind man took his staff and went on before me in order to break the road for three miles. The next day, himself and two children waded seven miles to attend on the word. Worn almost out with breaking the road after he left me, I reached brother Seally's who were glad to see me. Lord's-day 12th, the people came to meeting five miles, bringing whole families on ox-sleds. This was a glorious day here; the hearts of the people were open to receive the word. Poor sinners were struck under conviction, and backsliders came home to their Father's house, with the spirit and language of the prodigal. 13th, I preached 3 miles lower down the river Macadovick (formerly called St. Croix). This was also a powerful time; every heart melted, and every eye let fall the grateful or penitential tear. I believe good was done. The 14th, I preached in the afternoon; we had a full assembly, a solemn meeting, and an alarming time. In the evening I preached again; the congregation was large, the season solemn, many poor sinners complained of the hardness of their hearts. The 15th I preached in the afternoon about 3 miles further up the river; this was the fullest meeting and the most powerful time we had; several were constrained to declare the goodness of God, and exhort poor sinners.

The 16th I took an affectionate leave of my friends here, who sent their multiplied thanks to the Society; I set out for Dicketaquash 8 miles distant, I travelled on foot all the way and preached the same evening. The people in this place are chiefly Scotch, and I fear too indifferent to religion. I must except the family of Mr. Fareland. This man bid me a hearty welcome to his house, lamented the backwardness of his neighbours, and sent his thanks to the Society. The 17th set out again on foot for Bocabeck, 8 miles further, which place I reached in good season, and though much fatigued I preached

the same evening. Here also were hungry souls. I preached four sermons to them, from each of which there was good reason to believe good was done, and especially from the last, which was a very powerful time. Some poor sinners were constrained to cry for mercy. They sent their thanks to the Society. Here I procured a horse. The 18th I rode to St. Andrews' point, where is about 5 or 6 hundred inhabitants. There was no opening here for me to preach; I therefore rode about 4 miles further, to the settlement of the Green-Laws, and preached the same evening. Here I was kindly received. I preached 2 sermons and proceeded to St. David's. It began to snow on the 24th and continued until the 27th. Lord's day, 26th, the snow was so deep and drifted, that we were forced to shovel in order to get along with our horses for some considerable distance. We were so long in going five miles, (notwithstanding our best endeavours) that many of the people who had met, went away before we got there, concluding we should not come at all. The snow was said to be 4 feet deep upon a level in the hard wood land. I preached in this town 7 sermons; from the two last there were great hopes of good being done amongst poor sinners. Some of the dear children of God who were scattered here were greatly comforted, and sent their thanks to the Society. I had intended when I set out to have gone through Schoodiac and down on the western shore; but that was not possible, as there were 12 miles of distance without any house or track. I therefore concluded to return. The 29th rode to Cornick in the snow storm, and was obliged to stay there that night on account of the tide which prevented my passing. March 1st, got to Green-Laws. 2d, preached at the lake; here are a number of families who gladly received the word. We had in this place a good meeting, a melting time; the people expressed much thankfulness, and hoped to be favoured again in the like manner. 3d, I preached another sermon, the people were much roused under the word, we hoped that good was done. Lord's day, 4th, 7 horses beside a number of foot people came nine miles to meeting through the woods, the snow being up to the horse's belly almost every step. Did you know the difficulties which some surmounted in order to attend on the word, I am sure you would conclude they were hungry. This was a glorious day; the dear people after hearing me preach 3 sermons, still were unwilling to retire; they wished to be favoured in the same manner, as they very seldom hear any preaching. The 5th I was sent for to preach a lecture at St. Andrews. I went and preached from Gal. ii. 20. The 6th I took passage and got home and found my family all well; myself being the only one that is very unwell; and I can truly say, I have not enjoyed one day's health this whole winter.



In my whole tour I have travelled by water, on horseback and on foot about 500 miles. This country does not admit of such speed in travelling as the western. My expenses have been 4 dols. 25 cts. The money received, 9 dols. 50 cts. Did you know how many poor sinners there are about amongst these islands and eastern coast, who are ready to perish for lack of knowledge, your benevolent hearts would melt with pity.

May your benevolent intentions be crowned with abundant success, and the prayers and blessings of thousands ready to perish be your portion here, and eternal glory your portion hereafter, is the sincere wish and prayer of, dear brethren, your unworthy servant,

JAMES MURPHY.

Eastport, 12th March, 1804.

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### A brief Sketch of the Revival of Religion in Boston.

**A**LTHOUGH it is generally known, that there has been for some time past a very extraordinary work of God's Spirit in this town; yet it is thought that a more particular account of its rise, progress, and extent would be gratifying to the religious public; we therefore present them with the following brief statement of facts.

Early in the spring of 1803, there appeared in the first and second Baptist Societies a more than usual seriousness. While the solemn truths of the gospel were dispensed, the people frequently seemed to hear as for their lives: yet for some time nothing appeared to warrant a conclusion, that the work had actually begun. On the first Lord's-day in March, two persons were baptized by the pastor of the second church. The season was solemn, but perhaps not unusually so. It may be proper here to observe, that besides our stated monthly lectures, we had a weekly meeting in the vestry belonging to the first Society; where each church supplied preaching by turns. On the first Lord's-day in April, three persons more were baptized by Mr. Baldwin, and several young men called on him after meeting to converse on religious subjects. Some of them appeared to have obtained a good hope through grace; but others were impressed with a deep sense of their perishing need of salvation. The first Lord's-day in May, Mr. B. baptized four persons more. Several at this time appeared to have their attention considerably arrested. And in the course of the month, a number became so impressed as to converse freely with ministers and others from time to time upon their spiritual concerns. During the month of June, the attention evidently increased. Our assemblies became more crowded and solemn.

The first Lord's-day in July, Mr. B. baptized six persons more. The prospect of a more general awakening seemed daily to increase. Our meetings both on Lord's-days and evenings, became more and more crowded and solemn. A very considerable number of young people, who were deeply impressed with a sense of their sinful condition, frequently visited their ministers and others with this inquiry; "Sirs, what must we do to be saved?" Lord's-day evening, July 31, Mr. Jones,\* who had preached a few times in the Vestry, and in private houses, preached at 6 o'clock, P. M. in Mr. Baldwin's meeting-house.

On the 7th of August, being the first Lord's-day in the month, the ordinance of baptism was administered at both meetings, in presence of a vast crowd of spectators. It may be proper here to notice, that during the administration of the ordinance a very alarming event took place. Two workshops, which stood over the water, each having a platform extending several feet beyond the buildings, fell. These were thronged with people. The weight became such on these projections as to draw the building from the wharf. The scene for a few moments was truly distressing! Perhaps 60 persons of different ages and sexes were in an instant dropped into the water. And what rendered it more awful was, it was for a minute feared that the buildings would overset upon them. But kind Providence ordered it otherwise; by the friendly assistance of the gentlemen who stood on the shore, many of whom sprang into the water to the relief of the distressed, they were all gotten safely out, without any material injury. The water was about five feet deep. This accident happened immediately after Dr. Stillman had baptized, and during the prayer before Mr. Baldwin administered the ordinance. The scene was too alarming to excite laughter! It seemed rather to solemnize than otherwise. In about fifteen minutes, however, all was quiet again, and the remaining candidates were baptized. This solemn event was blessed, at least to the conviction of one, who has since been brought to the knowledge of the truth, and to a public profession. The shrieks of those who were in the water, and of those who were alarmed for the safety of their friends, brought to her view the solemn scene that will open when the last trump shall sound. A third sermon was delivered at half past 7 o'clock, by Mr. J.

The Lord's day following, Mr. Burton† preached a third sermon at Dr. Stillman's meeting-house. And the next Lord's day evening, Mr. Williams preached at Mr. Baldwin's a third sermon, and from that time to the present, with the exception

\* *From Lebanon in New-Hampshire, in the Freewill connexion.*

† *From Halifax.*

of two or three evenings, a lecture has been kept up interchangeably at the two meeting-houses. We also had occasional lectures in the week time, as we could obtain assistance from our ministering brethren.

On the evening of the 15th of September, Mr. Peak preached at Mr. Baldwin's meeting-house, and after the people had chiefly withdrawn, Mr. B. tarried a few minutes to converse with a number of anxious persons, when perhaps 40 or 50 immediately collected round him. He delivered a short address to them; they appeared to be all in tears. Several young men were also in the singing seats in the gallery, who were greatly affected. One was so overcome with a sense of his wretched condition as scarcely to be able to sit upon the seat. This was the first beginning of what has been generally practised ever since, for the people to tarry some time after the blessing is given.

The first Lord's day in October the ordinance was again administered at both meetings. Dr. Stillman baptized 8, and Mr. Baldwin 5. The season was remarkably solemn. Mr. Burton preached in the eve at Mr. Baldwin's meeting-house; the place was uncommonly thronged; great numbers standing in the isles the whole time. During this month the work seemed greatly to increase. Scarcely a day passed without some person's calling, and frequently many in a day would call on their ministers for instructions. Often by the time one company were gone out, another would come in. After meeting it was frequently the case that 20 or 30 would call on each of the ministers. These little companies would be made up promiscuously of the two societies; and sometimes numbers from the other societies in the town.

On the last Lord's day in October, as the tide favoured, the ordinance was again administered at both meetings. Dr. Stillman baptized 11, and Mr. Baldwin 21. The season was solemn; but the pleasure was much lessened on account of its raining considerably during the administration. On the 13th November, Dr. S. baptized 9 more. The work appeared at this time to be at its height. It is believed that more persons were awakened in September, October, and November, than in any other three months since the work began. The last Lord's day in November, Mr. B. baptized 12 more. The weather was pleasant, but the wind unusually high. The candidates behaved with great calmness, and the spectators with decency and solemnity. The ordinance was again administered by Dr. S. Dec. 11, to eight candidates; and on the 25th, by Mr. B. to 9 more.

The attention through the winter continued much the same. The most severe snow-storms would not prevent our houses being filled on Lord's-day evenings. And usually when fair, notwithstanding the cold, they would be thronged. Every



isle crowded full to the head of the pulpit stairs, and frequently hundreds went away who could not get within the doors.

Reader ! conceive for a moment what an affecting scene such a meeting presents ! Imagine yourself standing among and looking over an assembly containing perhaps twenty-five hundred people ! all crowded together like a solid column ! All is solemnity ! Look in any direction, and you behold deep concern depicted in the countenances of anxious sinners ! Many with their heads down weeping ! others trying to hold them up ; but in spite of every effort, the tears glisten in their eyes, and steal down their cheeks in swift succession. If thy heart be not marble it must melt at the prospect !

Many who came to look on, or to make ridicule, went away deeply affected ; and were constrained to say with Job, " The arrows of the Almighty are within me."

It has been usual during the fall, winter, and spring months, while the evenings were sufficiently long, for the people to tarry after the blessing, and frequently some minister present has again addressed them. Sometimes two or three have spoken, and prayed. This custom seemed to arise out of the feelings of the people. They appeared to be loath to leave the place. There is no doubt but they would have tarried until midnight, had the exhortations been continued. But the meetings were generally dismissed soon after nine, so that any person might go whose duty called him to be at home. There have been few instances in which the people have not retired before 10 o'clock. Those who have had a principal concern in this work, have used every prudent measure to prevent the complaints which have been too justly made by Parents and Masters, of keeping the young people so late as to break in upon the customary duties of the family. It is but just to say at the same time, that such were the tender feelings of the ministers, that they would often have freely dispensed with the hours of sleep, to have spent the season in conversing and praying with such anxious sinners as repaired to their studies for instruction, had it not been for the reasons assigned above.

Particular circumstances rendered it inconvenient to administer the ordinance of baptism during the severe frosts of winter. But on the 15th of April Mr. B. baptized 24 persons, after the second service on Lord's-day. The same precious ordinance was administered at both meetings on the 29th. Dr. S. baptized 11, and Mr. B. 18. The collection of spectators was unusually great, and remarkably solemn.

During the month of May, Dr. S. baptized 18, in June 8, and in August 9. From the first of May to the last of August, Mr. B. has baptized 33. The whole number baptized in the First Church since the 4th of September last, is 82 ; and in the Second, 125. Thus we have abundant occasion to say, " The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Although these two Societies have been the principal sharers in this work, it has not been confined to them. Persons from almost every society in the town, and numbers from the adjacent towns, have frequently attended on the lectures; and we have good reason to believe that many have reaped saving advantages.

The church under the pastoral care of the Rev. Dr. Eckley has received considerable additions since this work began. This good man's heart has been much engaged in the work, and would, we believe, have rejoiced to have seen it more general among his people. He has frequently attended and assisted in the public lectures, in both the Baptist Meetings. It has afforded much pleasure to the friends of vital godliness, to see this friendly connexion. We devoutly hope it may ever continue.

This hasty, imperfect sketch of this glorious work, is all that our present limits will allow us to give; but as the work has not come to a close, we may deem it proper at some future period to continue the narrative. Should it be asked what is the present state of the work? We answer, we think the attention, though somewhat abated, is still very pleasing. Numbers appear to be still seriously impressed, while others have been lately brought to rejoice in the truth. We fear, however, the day is not far distant, when some will have to take up this lamentation, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

#### REMARKS UPON THE PRECEDING.

1. This work has, we believe, been carried on with as little noise and confusion, as any of equal extent which has ever taken place in our land. We are far from thinking that there cannot be a good work where there is a considerable mixture of enthusiasm; but still we think it not very desirable. There has been little or no outcrying, swooning, &c. in the present work; but the mind silently, yet powerfully impressed.

2. The means and instruments God has been pleased to use in carrying on this work. The gospel preached has been principally blessed. Frequently the naming of the text has struck powerful conviction into the mind. In other instances it has been attended with comfort. Many others have been first struck by seeing a number around them weeping. This solemn reflection has come home to their breasts, "Have I not a soul to be saved as well as they? Is it not equally important for me to seek the Lord Jesus Christ as well as they?" Others who seemed not so much impressed at meeting, when they came to return home and repair to the downy bed, found they could not rest. The scene they had witnessed in the evening would present itself to the mind, and the truths they had heard would ring like peals of thunder through their ears. Many more have been struck by seeing the ordinance of baptism administered. In

short, almost every thing seemed to preach. Numbers of ministers of different denominations have visited and preached with us, and few if any without good effect.

3. We add a third remark on the change produced. The converts in general have appeared to have a deep and thorough sense of the depravity of their own hearts; of the infinite evil of sin, as committed against a holy God. They have not so frequently expressed their fears of hell, as their dread of sin on account of the wrong which it contains in itself. Comfort has been variously communicated. The precious promises have in some instances been powerfully applied. Others on viewing the divine character have had instant joy infused into their souls. They have felt such a sweetness in meditating upon the perfections of God and the glories of the Redeemer, as apparently to lose sight of every thing else. In other instances the light has been gradually let into the mind, and they have obtained evidence of their change, by finding in themselves the tempers and feelings of the gracious heart.

4. We add in the last place a remark on the effects of this work, on individuals and on society at large. It has reclaimed the profane swearer, the gambler, the sabbath-breaker. It has made "young men sober-minded." It has formed the minds of all who have embraced it, to the love of virtue and religion. It has led them to discharge all the duties of social and religious life, with conscientiousness and fidelity. In a word, it has laid a foundation to hope, that in future life they will live so as to be an ornament to religion and blessings in the world. May the great Shepherd of Israel, who has gathered such a precious number of lambs in his arms, carry them in his bosom, and preserve them safe to his heavenly kingdom.

Before we conclude this article, we think it proper to state, that the most pleasing union and harmony between the two churches, and the members individually, has prevailed much of the time in which God has been at work amongst us. But it would look like an attempt to conceal from the public what is but too well known, were we not to mention, that this pleasing harmony has been partially interrupted by the attempts which have been made by certain persons, to introduce sentiments different from those which we have professed to believe, and which to us still appear to be according to truth. It is matter of deep regret, that we have occasion to make this remark. We hope however, that that God, who can cause the wrath of man to praise him, will overrule it for his glory, and the good of Zion.

Boston, Sep. 11, 1804.

N. B. God has also been carrying on the same good work in several of the adjacent towns, but the particulars have not been communicated for this Number.